

November 28, 2023

Tracy Kapusta
Office of City Clerk
PO Box 969
Rutland, VT 05702-0969

Re: Request for FY 2024 City appropriation of \$10,000.00

Dear Ms. Kapusta and members of the Board of Aldermen,

Please accept our sincere gratitude on behalf of the taxpayers of the City of Rutland. The generous support provided to the Rutland County Free Clinic (RCFC) in these recent years has made it possible for us to remain attentive to the health care needs within Rutland City. We hope that you will continue to find our services a necessary component for the good health of the Rutland City community.

The need to access essential healthcare in a timely manner is higher than ever. Our community healthcare system is over-burdened with their current clinical capacity. COVID variants are still holding strong and pose a threat to our healthcare providers as well as others in our community. Many community clinics are unable to accept new Medicaid patients (medical or dental) within a reasonable period, which leaves some in need of care visiting our community hospital emergency services. It is critical that we work to alleviate the pressure that is placed on our ED services for treatments that are not life-threatening.

The RCFC has and will continue to work to address the needs of those who are unable to access the care they need in a timely manner. We are currently moving our clinic from 145 State Street to 204 North Main St. in Rutland. This location will allow us to be more visible, accessible and safe. There is a bus stop within 200 yards of our building and appropriate handicap access to our building.

During the last fiscal year, the RCFC served nearly 200 adult residents of Rutland City. Over 50 of these adults were between 60-80 years of age. 70 adults obtained access to dental services which included fillings & extractions. 21 of the dental patients served were over the age of 60.

Seventy-one adults living in Rutland City obtained temporary medication assistance. This includes antibiotics and other prescription medications necessary to manage chronic health conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure. 15 of these patients were over the age of 60.

Eleven of the 29 Farmacy shares we were able to provide to our patients went to Rutland City residents. These farm shares provide access to fresh local produce over a period of nearly 6 months.

Forty-seven Rutland City residents participated in the YOU First women's health care program. The RCFC assisted 46 women over the age of 40 in obtaining a mammogram and heart healthy lab work for women age 30 and over. The Free Clinic assists our YOU First members in completing their annual and routine check-ups and accessing additional healthy benefits this program offers.

Community based wellness events were held within Rutland City in partnership with BROCC, Vermont Department of Health, Companions in Wholeness and Rutland County Farmers Market and the Medical Reserve Corps.



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In October we began participating in an inter-agency street outreach program serving the homeless and unhoused in Rutland City. We do not work within the hotel/motel housing program but serve some of whom have been discharged from this program and have yet to secure sustainable, healthy housing. We collaborate with the Rutland City Police Department, Project Vision, Turning Point, Rutland Mental Health and Medical Reserve Corps to provide this essential service.

We anticipate the implementation of a mobile medical unit equipped to serve all areas in Rutland County by late 2024. We hope this service will encourage preventative care and routine check-ups for those who do not have a primary care home and/or easy access.

Again, our sincere thanks for your support and your kind consideration to keep the RCFC on the voting ballot for continued assistance in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Tia M. Poalino

Executive Director, Park Street Healthshare, Inc. dba Rutland County Free Clinic